

FIRST
COMICS
MAR 45 1999
\$1.95 \$2.45
CANADA

MIKE BARON • ROW LIA • PAUL ABRAMS

BADGER



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Row 88 + Paul Abrams

BADGER™

CREATED BY MIKE BARON

A self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, the **Badger** metes out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

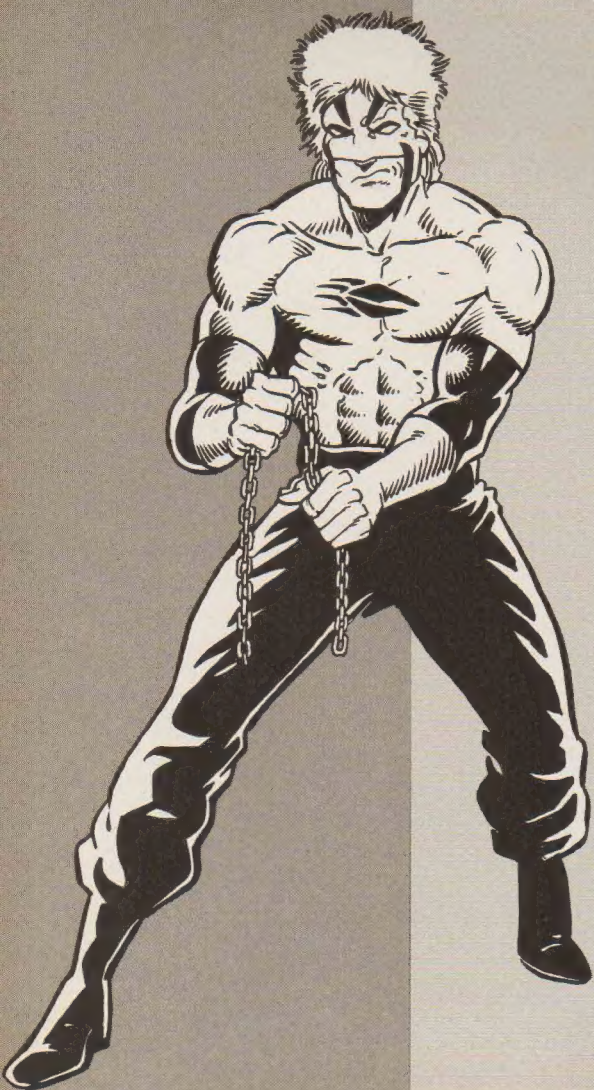
Badger is just one side of **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran with a personality problem: it's split seven ways. Nevertheless, Norbert almost always finds himself in a Badger state of mind.

Badger is a master of Shorin-ryu and dozens of other obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention abstruse martial arts. He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle. Only with better results.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

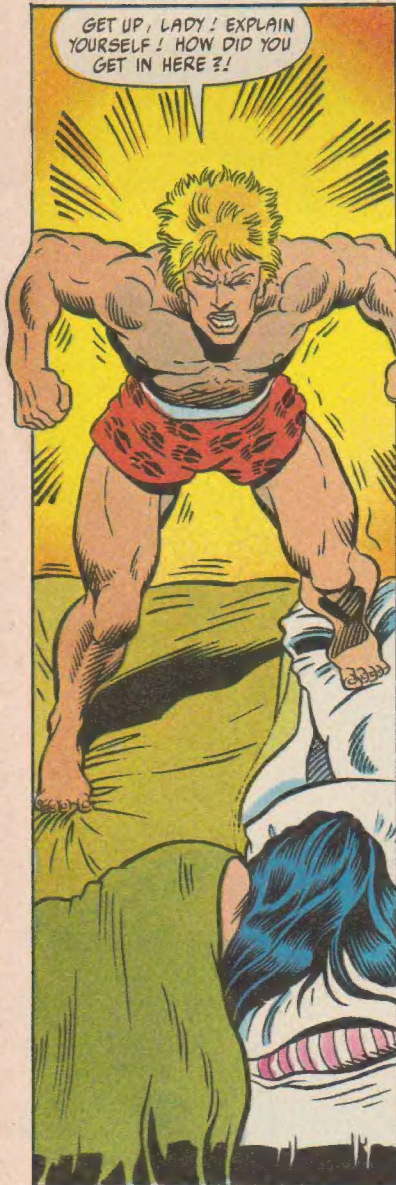
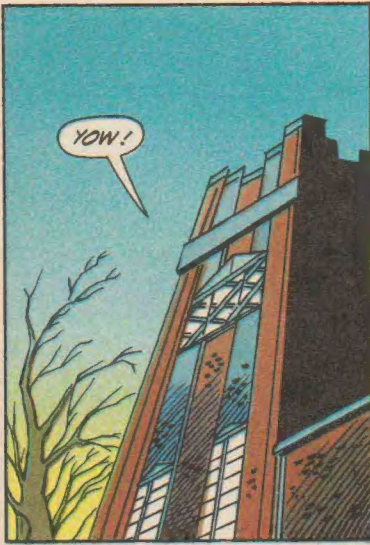
Badger calls everyone Larry.

Last Issue: Senator Bob Kasten saved Badger and Ham from the Vampire king, proving once again why you don't eat a great pig like that all at once. Ham still has a tiny problem: he's turned his assistant Daisy into a toad. And the Badger's problems are only beginning...

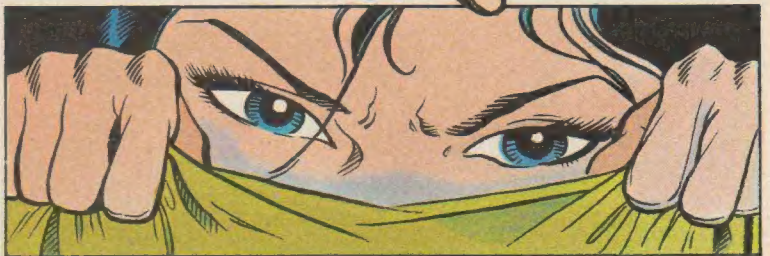


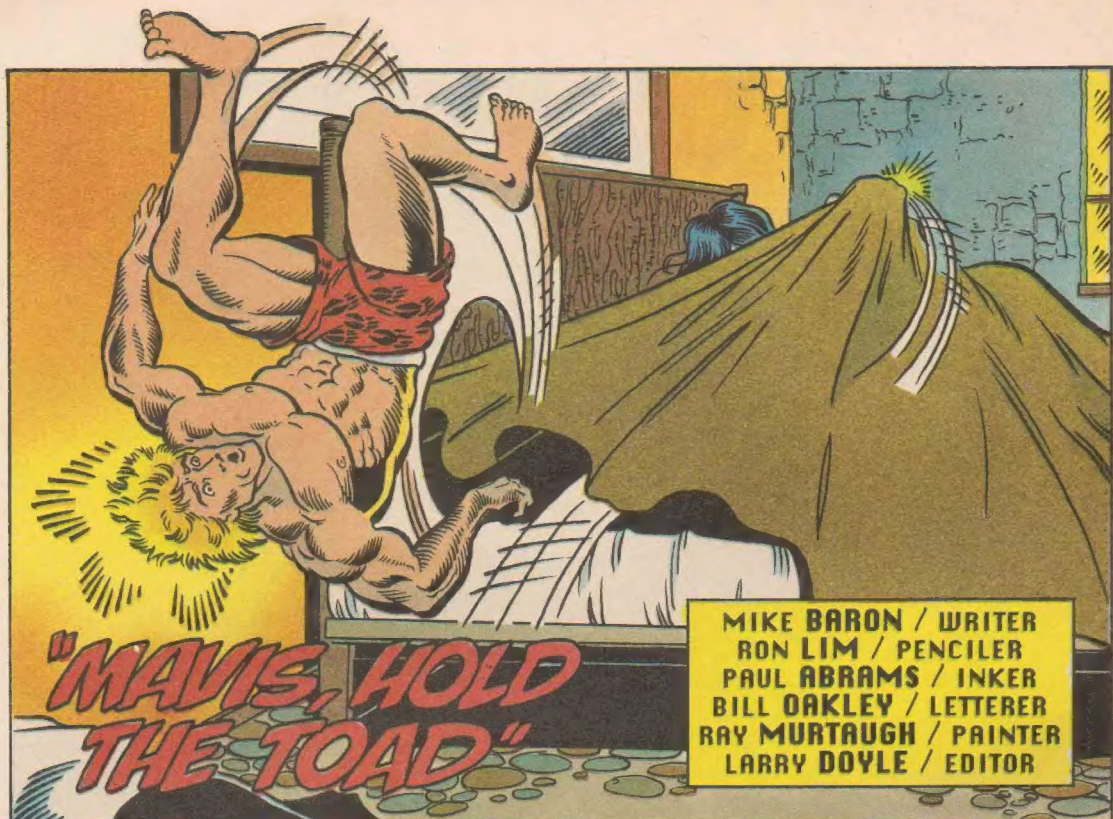
BADGER™ Vol. 1, No. 45 March, 1989. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published monthly. Copyright © 1988 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: \$1.95 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: \$23.50 in the U.S., \$25.50 in Canada, and \$45.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual person, living or dead, without satiric content, are intended or should be inferred. The Badger, Clonezone and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **Badger**, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.

A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION



OKAY, WAIT A MINUTE, HOLD IT, WHOA!OO!





IT'S A LONG STORY, OKAY? HAM WAS TRYING TO TURN A VAMPIRE INTO A TOAD AND HE GOT DAISY INSTEAD.

NOT JUST ANY TOAD, BUT AN EXTREMELY RARE PURPLE SPOTTED POMERANIAN TREE TOAD, THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT!

RIBIT!

AND NOW THIS RARE AND GENTLE TOAD, WHO HAS FAITHFULLY KEPT HAM'S BOOKS THESE FIVE YEARS, HAS BECOME THE OBJECT OF A WORLDWIDE IBOB SEARCH...

IBOB, OR THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BRUJOS, BELIEVES THAT THE SACRIFICE OF THIS RARE TOAD WILL ALLOW THE OPENING OF A RIFT BETWEEN EARTH AND CERTAIN NETHER DIMENSIONS THROUGH WHICH IBOB HOPES TO BRING AN ARMY OF BLOOD-THIRSTY DEMONS.

ZOT

DAISY... I'LL MAKE IT RIGHT...

FLIES...

BZZZZZZ

I MUST CATCH MORE FLIES FOR DAISY!

HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE HE TURNED DAISY INTO A TOAD.



OKAY! MAYBE YOU'RE MY WIFE AND MAYBE YOU'RE JUST A CLEVER IMPOSTER! I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER. PUT SOME CLOTHES ON-- NOT MINE-- AND WE'LL TAKE DAISY TO THE VET'S FOR HER SALMONELLA SHOTS.



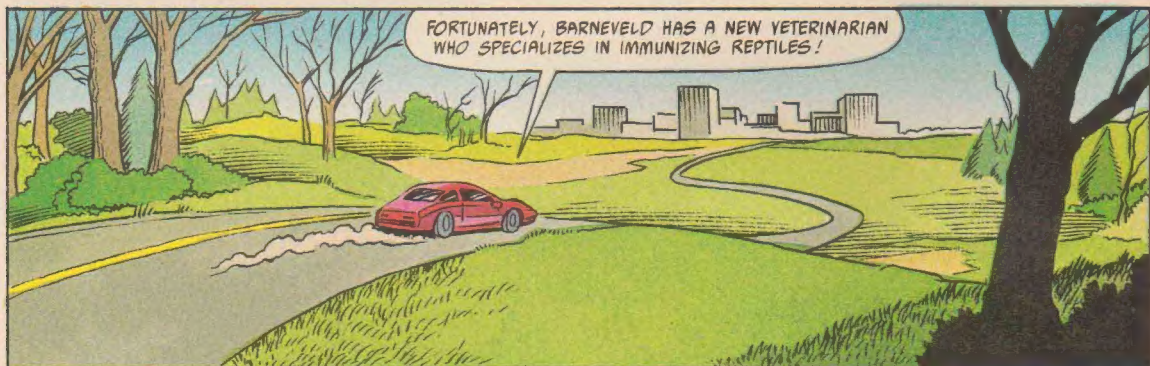
NORBERT, HAM WAS RATIONAL FOR A FEW MINUTES LAST NIGHT AND SAID IBOB IS AFTER DAISY.

HAM HASN'T BEEN RATIONAL IN YEARS.

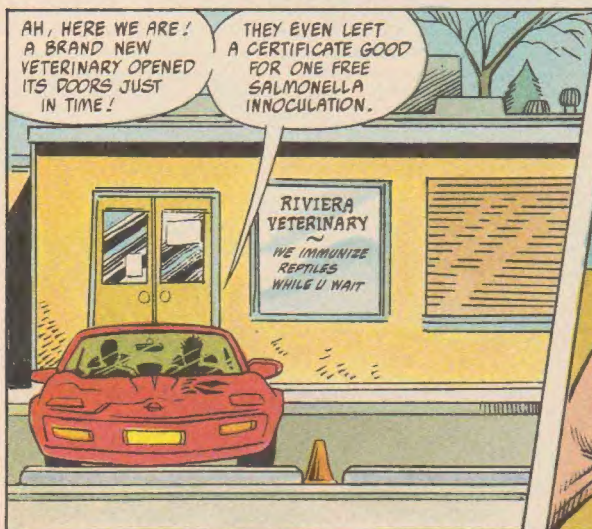


THAT BOB GUY WAS IBOB'S LAST HURRAH-- THEY'RE NO MORE THAN A SHADOW OF THEIR FORMER SELVES, AND THEY WERE A SHADOW ORGANIZATION TO BEGIN WITH!

RIBIT!



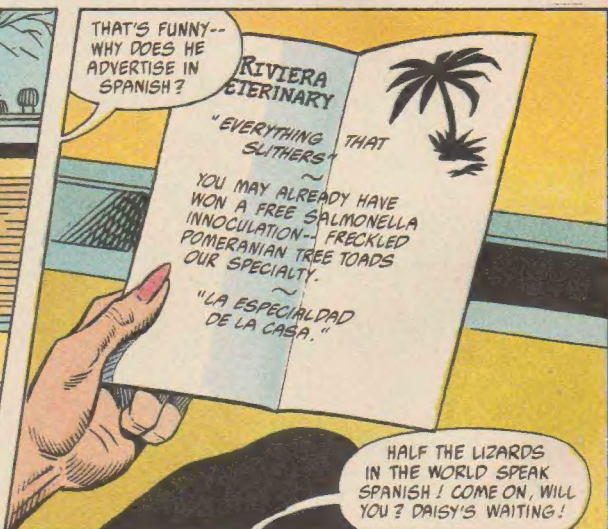
FORTUNATELY, BARNEVELD HAS A NEW VETERINARIAN WHO SPECIALIZES IN IMMUNIZING REPTILES!



AH, HERE WE ARE! A BRAND NEW VETERINARY OPENED ITS DOORS JUST IN TIME!

THEY EVEN LEFT A CERTIFICATE GOOD FOR ONE FREE SALMONELLA INNOCULATION.

RIVIERA VETERINARY
~
WE IMMUNIZE REPTILES WHILE U WAIT



THAT'S FUNNY-- WHY DOES HE ADVERTISE IN SPANISH?

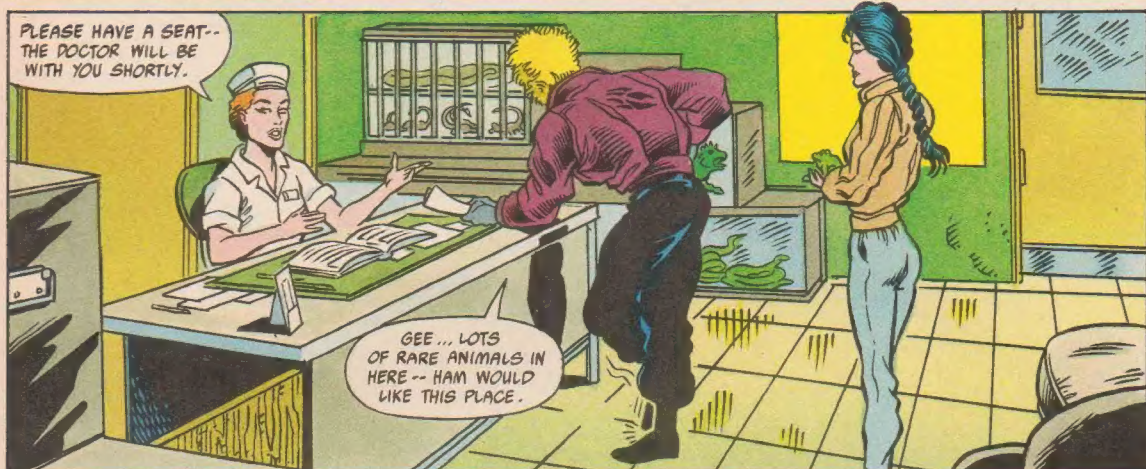
RIVIERA VETERINARY

"EVERYTHING THAT SLITHERS"

~
YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE WON A FREE SALMONELLA INNOCULATION-- FRECKLED POMERANIAN TREE TOADS OUR SPECIALTY.

~
"LA ESPECIALIDAD DE LA CASA."

HALF THE LIZARDS IN THE WORLD SPEAK SPANISH! COME ON, WILL YOU? DAISY'S WAITING!



THIS IS THE FIRST DOCTOR'S OFFICE I'VE BEEN IN THAT SUBSCRIBES TO *INSIDE KUNG FU* AND COMBAT.



HE MUST BE INTERESTED IN THE SNAKE STYLE KUNG FU AND ANCIENT HEALING ARTS.

AH... THIS IS THE ADORABLE COUPLE WITH THE POMERANIAN TREE TOAD?





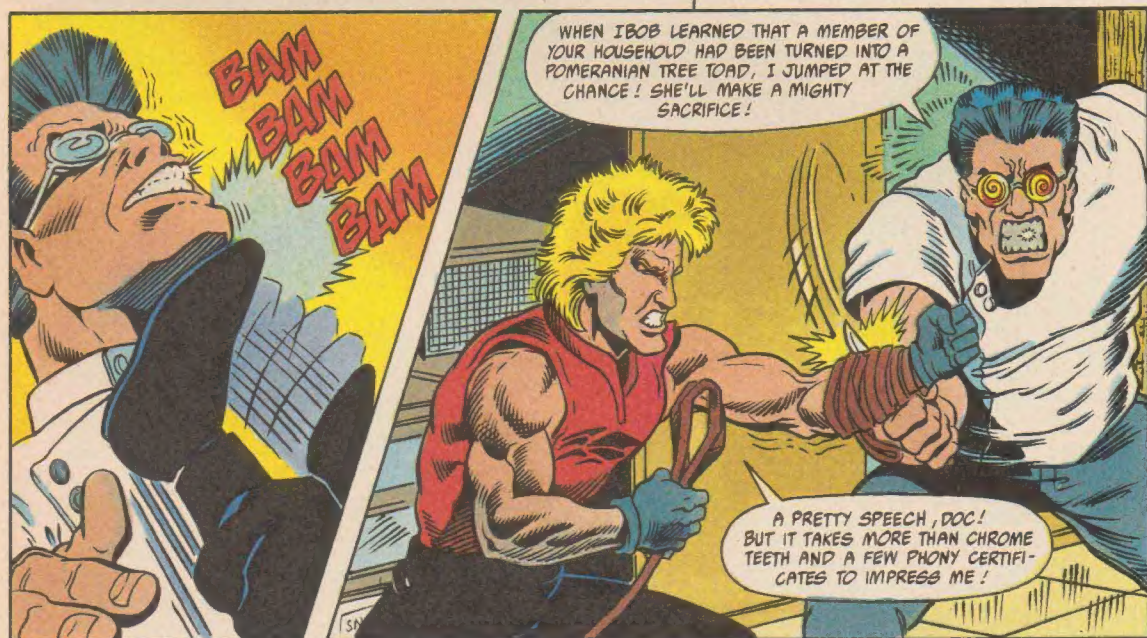
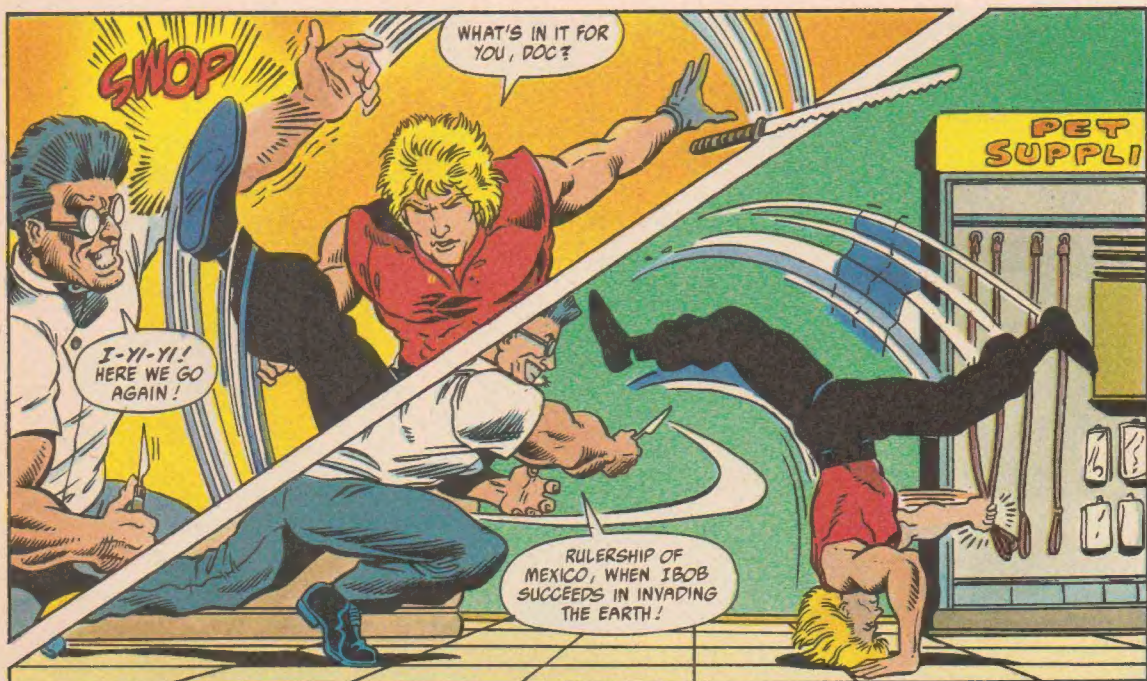
GEORGE SANTAYANA,
SPANISH-BORN, AMERICAN
BRED. I'M SO GLAD YOU
HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME,
AMIGO.

HOW COULD I FORGET
THE SLEAZIEST TV PITCHMAN
SINCE TV LOONY? I THOUGHT
YOU'D RETIRED TO A PLASTIC
SURGERY CLINIC IN PUERTO
VALLARTA... WHAT BRINGS
YOU BACK, DOC?

IBOB.

THAT'S WHAT
I THOUGHT. MAVIS,
HOLD THE TOAD.

♪ IBOB'S BACK AND YOU'RE
GONNA BE SORRY-- HEY ♪
♪ NONNY-NAH-- IBOB'S BACK!





AH, MI AMIGO, THERE ARE ARTS ABOUT WHICH YOU KNOW *NOTHING*-- THE ART OF THE SNAPPING SNAKE--

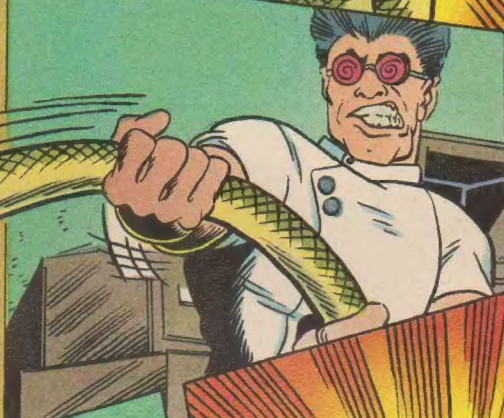


YOU NEED BIG HANDS TO CRACK A PYTHON -- HANDS LIKE DR. RIVIERA...

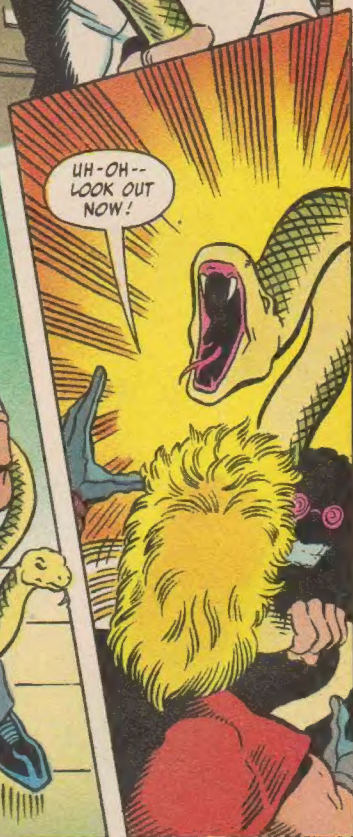


DON'T YOU SNAP THAT SNAKE AT ME--!!
OWW!

SNAP



IF I SNAP IT TWICE, I'LL BE LOWER THAN A ROOTWORM!



UH-OH--
LOOK OUT NOW!



ANYBODY WHO'D SNAP AN INNOCENT PYTHON IS LOWER THAN A SNAKE!



SO YOU THINK I DON'T
KNOW INDONESIAN
SNAKE FIGHTING, DO
YOU?

I NEVER
SAID
THAT.

SSST!

¡CARAMBA!

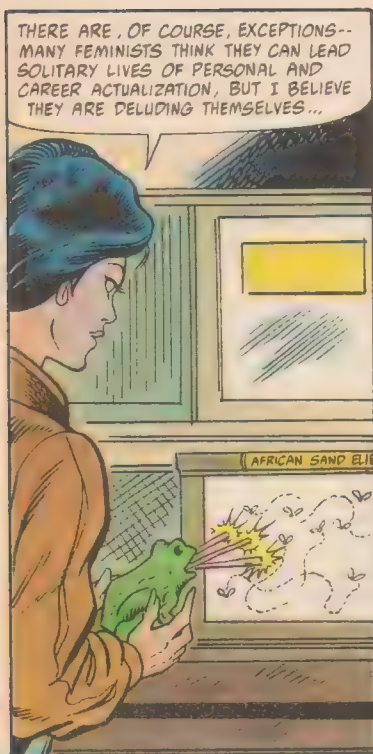
TAKE THAT,
WHY DON'TOHA
HEY?

MUY
STRONG
HANDS!

IT TAKES
STRONG HANDS TO SNAP
A SNAKE, SENOR...

RIP!





First PERSON SINGULAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: ANNOTATED EDITION

Back in April, I wrote a column, outlining the many cool things I was going to do here at First. If you missed that column, I'm sure back issues are still available. But if you did read it, you may be interested in the following two letters, which I have copiously annotated, since I did not receive three letters.



Dear Mr. Doyle,
I don't know you and already I
don't think I like you."

Dear Mr. Doyle,

I don't know you and already I don't think I like you. (1) I just read your "A Modest Proposal...." (2) editorial in Nexus #49 and I truly hope you're being satiric and not serious about the changes you mention: Lil' Badger (I hate slimy attitudes like "We've taken the liberty of dropping Lil' Badger and his precocious remarks into the proofs after Baron has already approved them.") (3); Nex-men (I also hate clones and rip-offs of the original) (4); Lone Wolf and Dreadstar combined (5); Molly Tyler Moore (6)? You've got to be kidding. (7)

The reason I read First Comics is because of the intelligence and individualism of most of the titles. Nexus, especially, has more substance than any other 10 comics combined (8). I stay away from Marvel and DC's oatmeal mush of combining storylines and characters with every plot stamped out of the same cookie-cutter mold (9). Now it seems you want to incorporate into First Comics the very things I abhor (10). The first time I see Ralphie or some other pansy cartoon character show up in the real

American Flagg! (11) — I'll drop that title from my buy list the same day.

Here's some advice. Don't rock the boat at First Comics — the reason they have such a following is because of the substance of their work. Sit back and understand why things work instead of running around like a chicken with its head cut off making changes just because you're new and want to make an impression. Relax, and don't start editorially whacking away at things that took years to attain their present level of acceptance.

Did First get you from Marvel or D.C.? (12) This is not a hate letter (13) — I just don't want to see major changes when I'm satisfied with the way things are now.

Sincerely,
Craig Bannister

To Larry Doyle:

Drop dead. (14)

Better still, let me help you.

With all the insincerity I can muster,

A female fan. (15)

1 I know you'd like me if you got to know me. But I'm afraid that's going to be impossible.

2 cf. Jonathan Swift

3 Unfortunately, we had to discontinue this practice after someone squealed to Baron and he kicked the living crap out of me.

4 Then you're probably not going to like our latest title, *Kleptoclone 2000*, or our new *Badger* in *Oz* crossover series.

5. We've since decided to go with *Lone Wolf and Whisper*, and play up the romantic angle.

6. That was *Whisper's* old new alias. Now it's *She Wolf*.

7. cf. Note 2.

8 And now it's going to have 10 times as many Nexuses, as well.

9 We all use word processors for that now.

10 And I could do a better job of it, if you would provide me with a comprehensive list.

11 The debut of the U.S. *Flagg* and his *Ranger Friends* Saturday morning cartoon series has been slightly delayed. An unforeseeable acetone explosion in the animators' shed destroyed nearly 4,000 finished cells (the equivalent of six full half hour episodes), not to mention many of the animators.

12 Do you really think Marvel Comics or Detective Comics would have let me go?

13 But an incredible fascimile.

14 Thud.

15 Oh boy, groupies already.

Next Month: The truth. Trust me.

Larry Doyle

FIRST IN OCTOBER

1 Team Yankee #4, #5 and #6. WWII really heats up! Limited weekly series, based on Maj. Harold Coyle's bestseller. By David Drake, Rod Whigham and Gerald Forton.

1 Lone Wolf and Cub #18: By Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima. Also, don't miss the *Deluxe Edition*, collecting issues #1-6, with dust jacket painting by Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz.

1 The Forgotten Forest of Oz. An all-new Oz adventure by Eric Shanower.

1 Nexus #53 By Mike Baron, Paul Smith and John Nyberg.

1 The Next Nexus #2: By Mike Baron and Steve Rude.

1 Grimjack #55: New artist Flint Henry introduces John Ostrander's new *Grimjack*. Cover by Flint and Timothy Truman.

1 Badger #44: By Mike Baron, Ron Lim and Paul Abrams.

1 Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! #10. By Chaykin, et al. Reader discretion advised.

1 Sable #12: By Marv Wolfman, John Hebert and E.R. Cruz.

1 Whisper #21 By Steven Grant and Spyder.

1 Elric: Bane of the Black Sword #4: By Roy Thomas, Mary Mitchell and Nicholas Koenig.

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435 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60610

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THE MOST AUTHENTIC JAPANESE MANGA
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LONE WOLF *and* CUB

- Lone Wolf and Cub #1-6 complete in one volume
- Perfect-bound cover by Frank Miller
- Full-color dust jacket painting by Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz
- Introduction by Eric Van Lustbader
- Special 8-page color section featuring all new art by Goseki Kojima, and Olivia
- A massive 392 pages of story and art for only \$19.95!

coming in

NOVEMBER

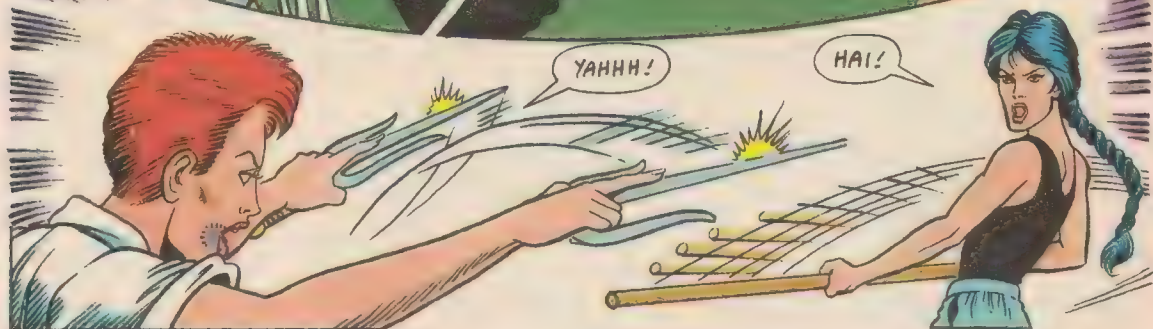
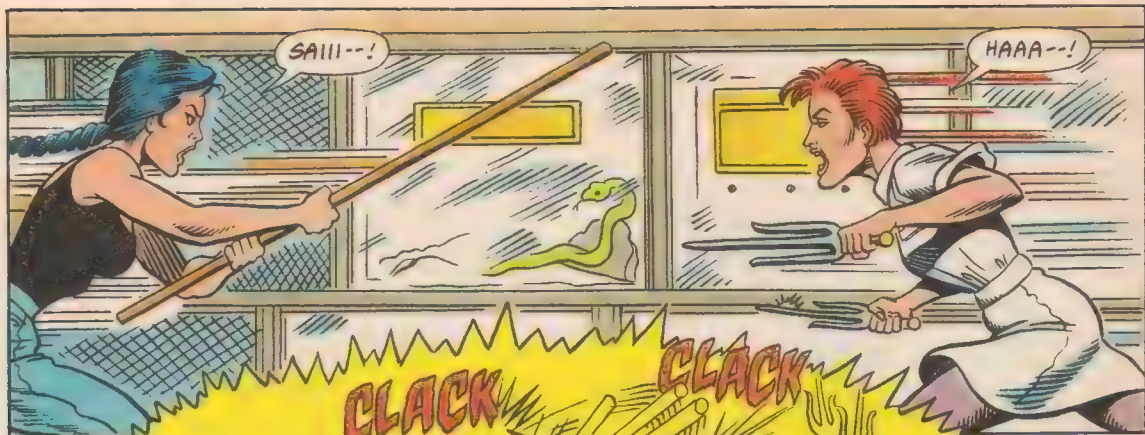
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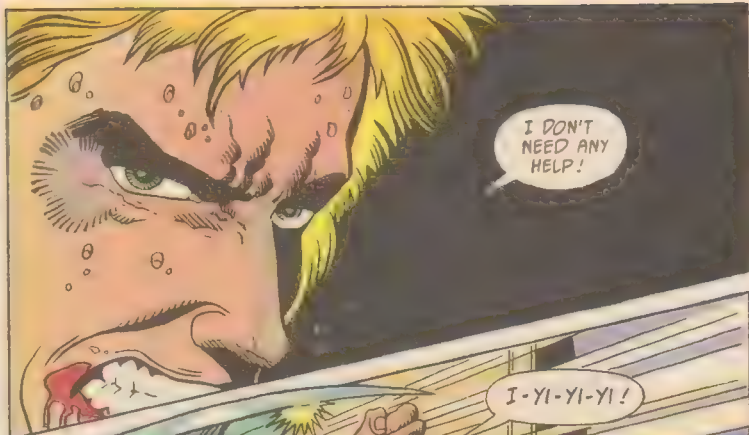
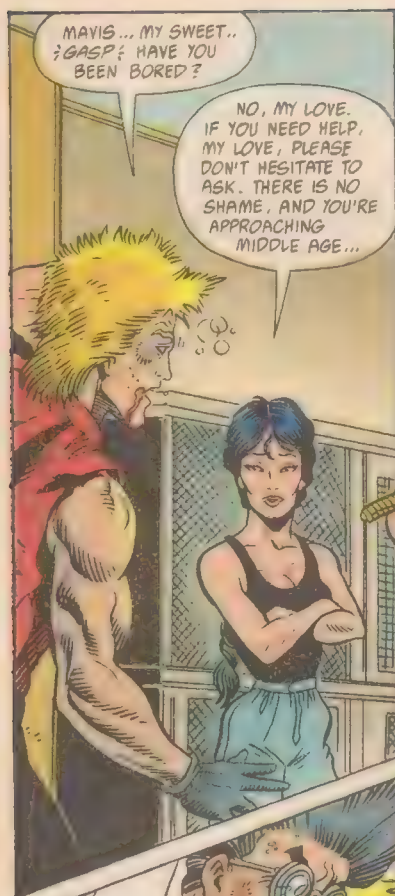












TURTLES T • I • M • E • S FOUR

ON • SALE • IN
NOVEMBER

TEENAGE
MUTANT
NINJA

TURTLES

BOOK IV

- Collects Leonardo #1
and TMNT #10 and #11
in color for the first time!
- 110 pages including a
special 3-page gate-fold!
- Cover painting
by Kevin Eastman!
- All for only \$9.95!

Collect the entire series:

TMNT BOOK I

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TMNT POSTER

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Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles TM and © 1988 Mirage Studios.
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DREADSTAR

RISING

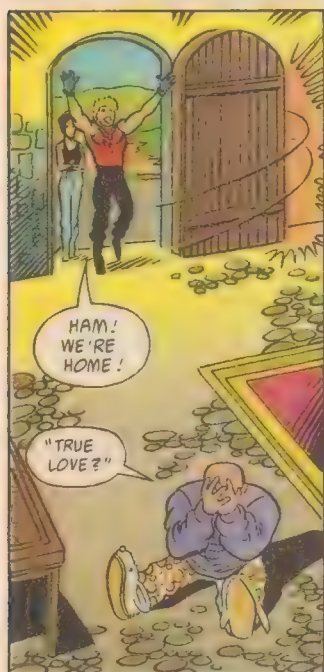
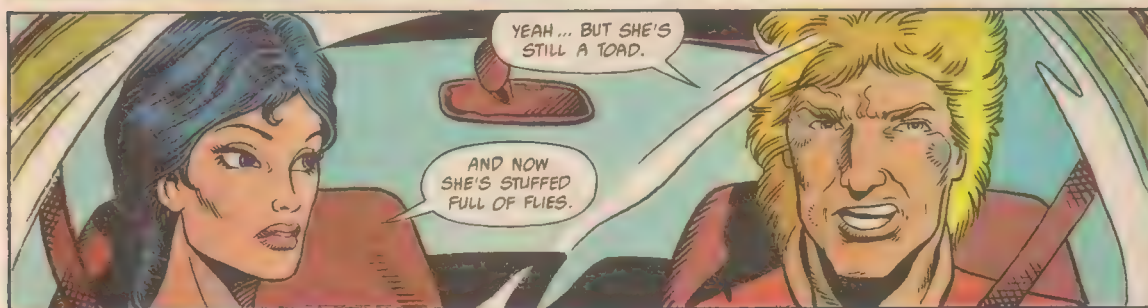
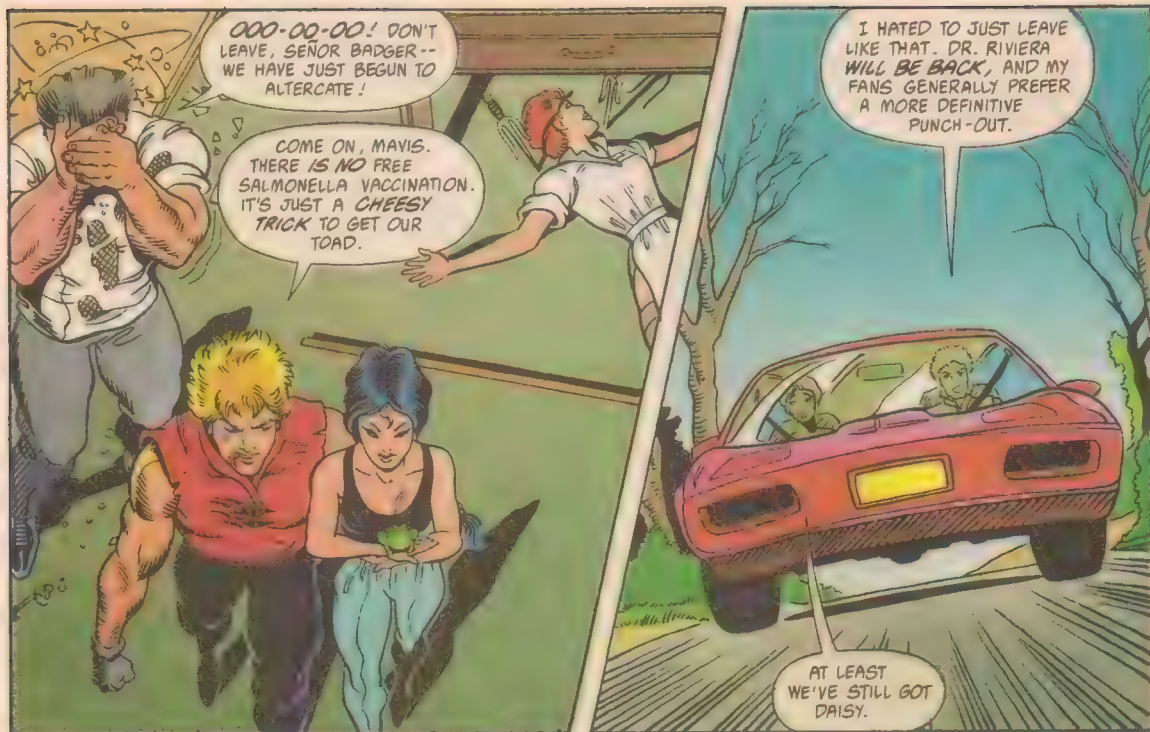


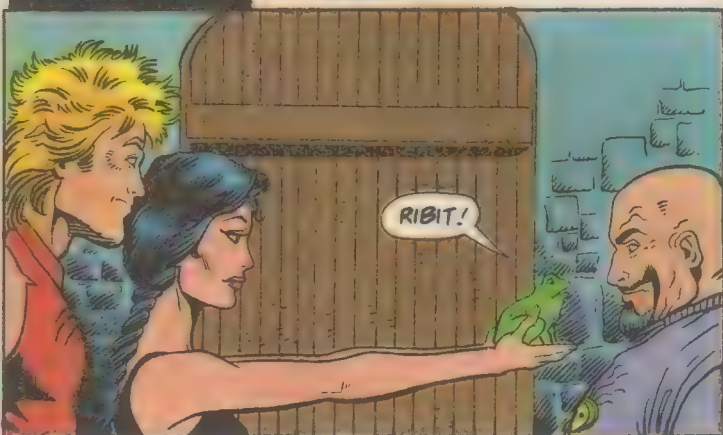
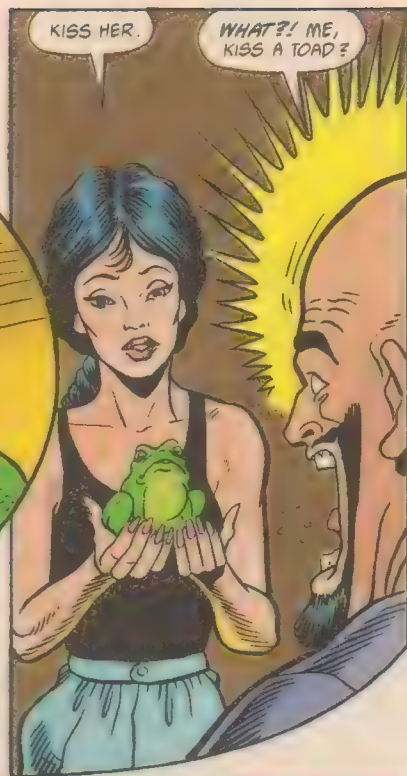
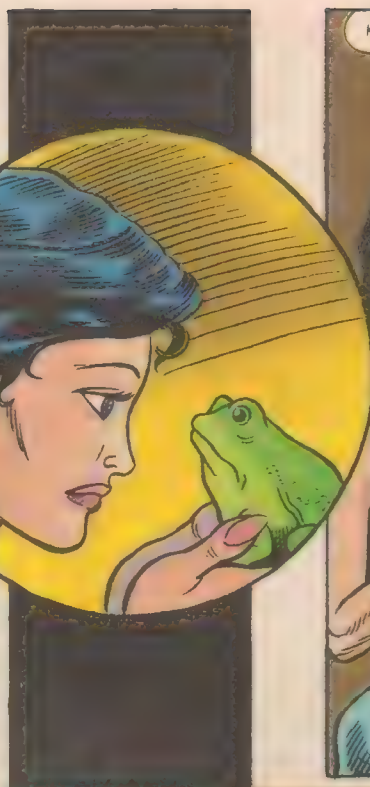
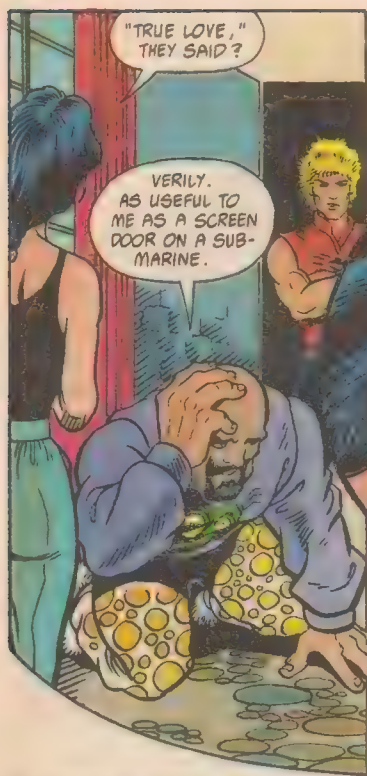
The new creative team of **Peter David**
and **Angel Medina** continue the
incredible cosmic odyssey of Vanth Dreadstar.

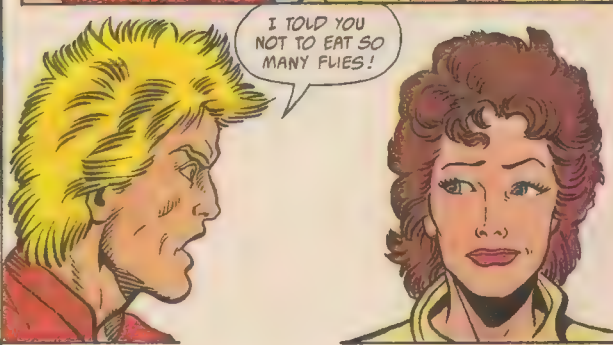
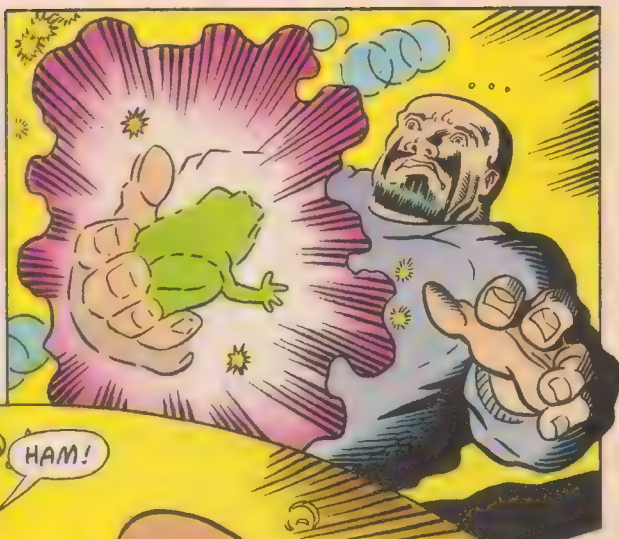
Beginning in Dreadstar #41
Coming in November

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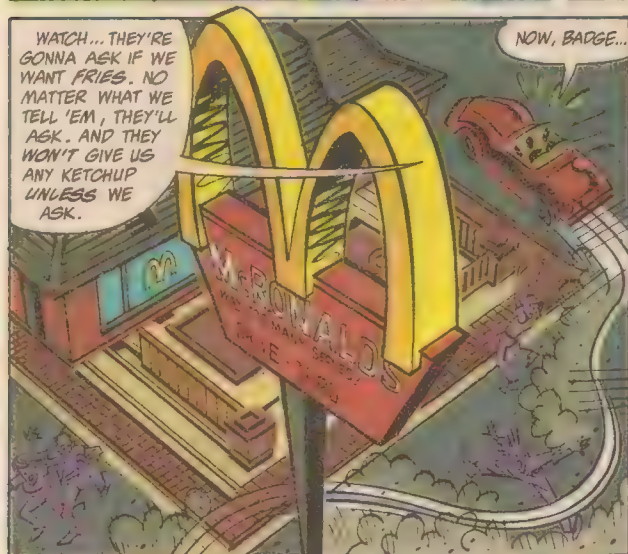
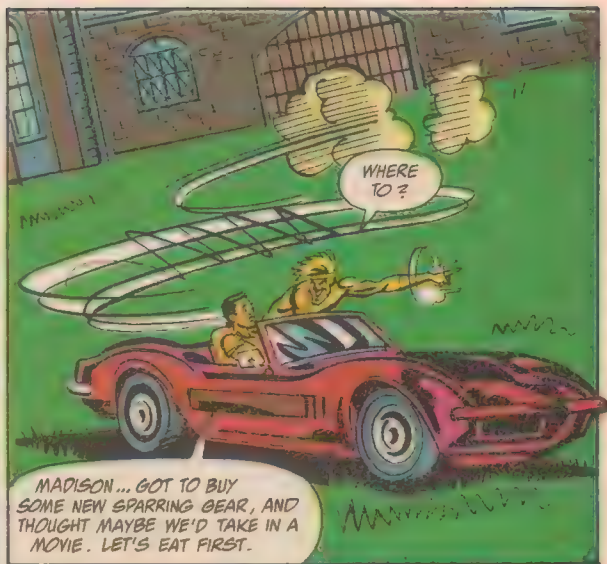
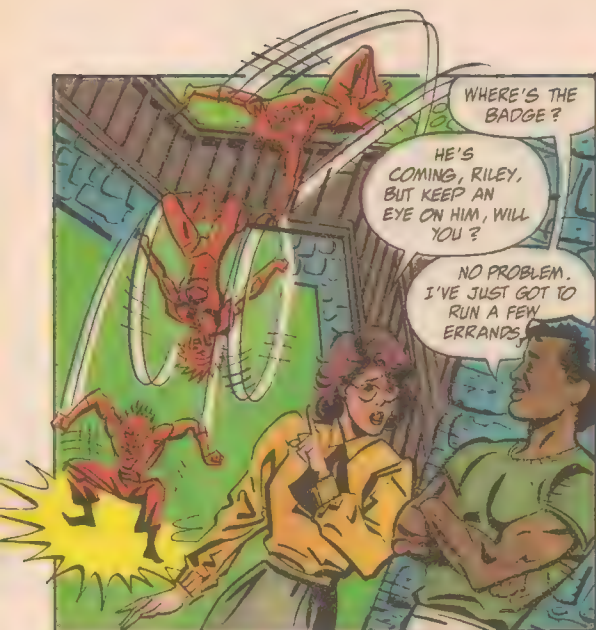


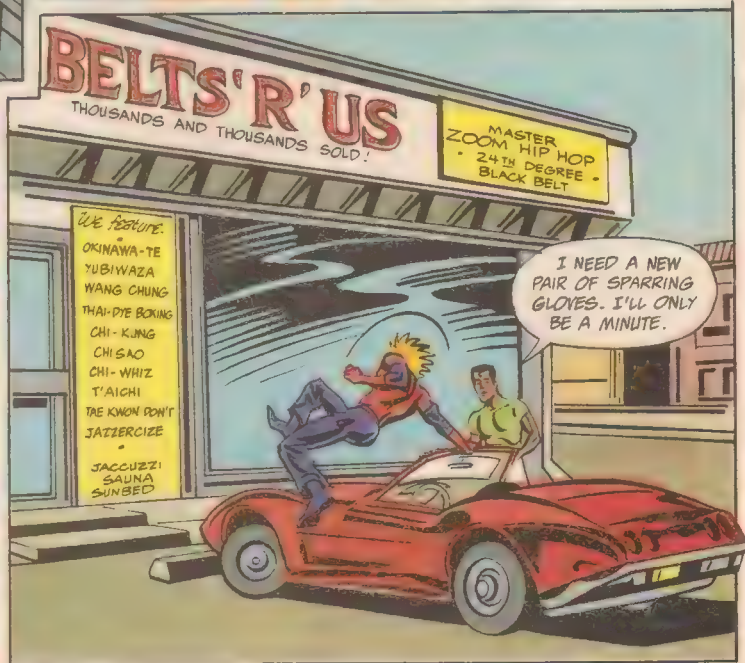
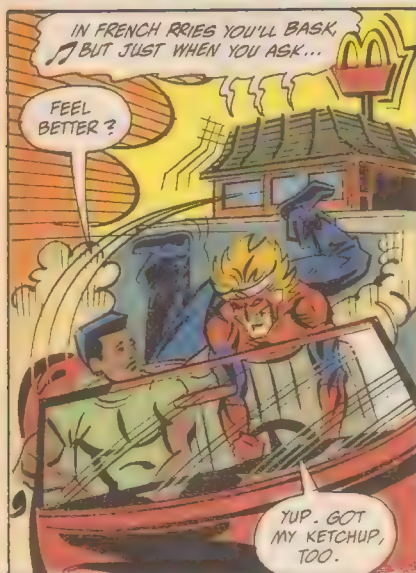


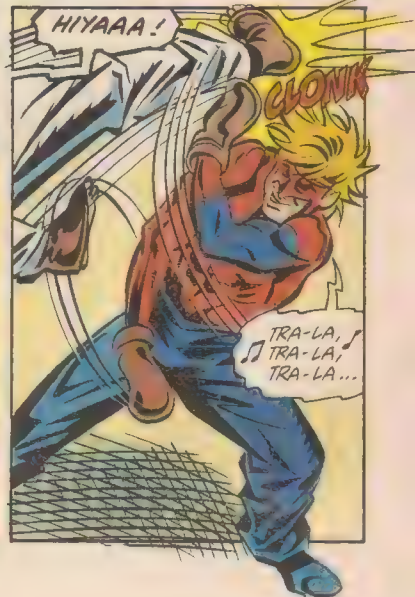
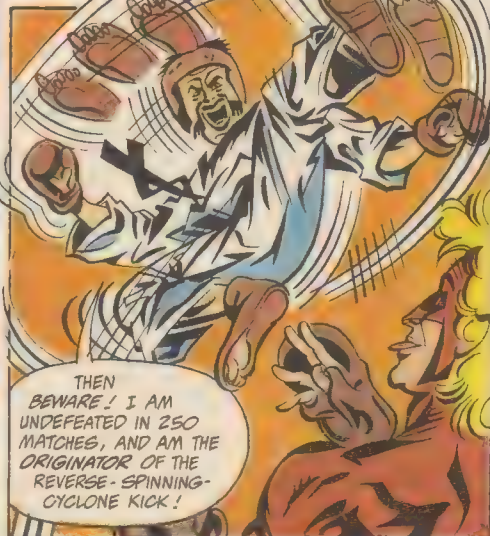
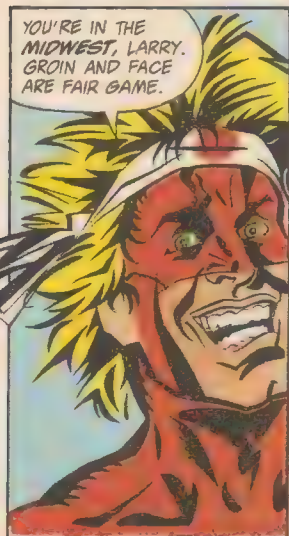
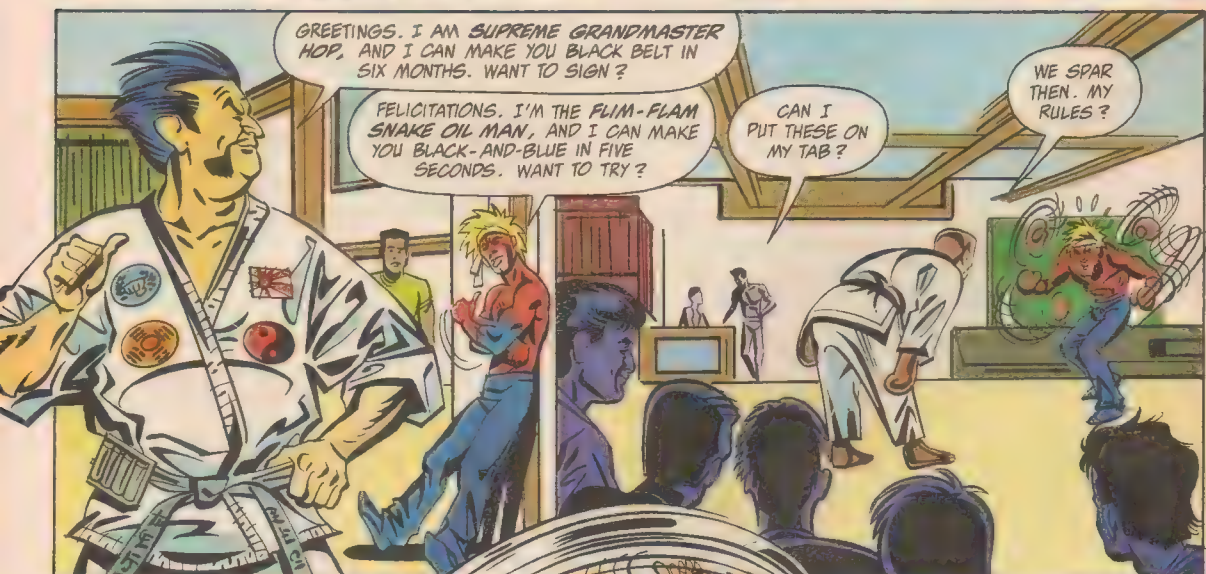
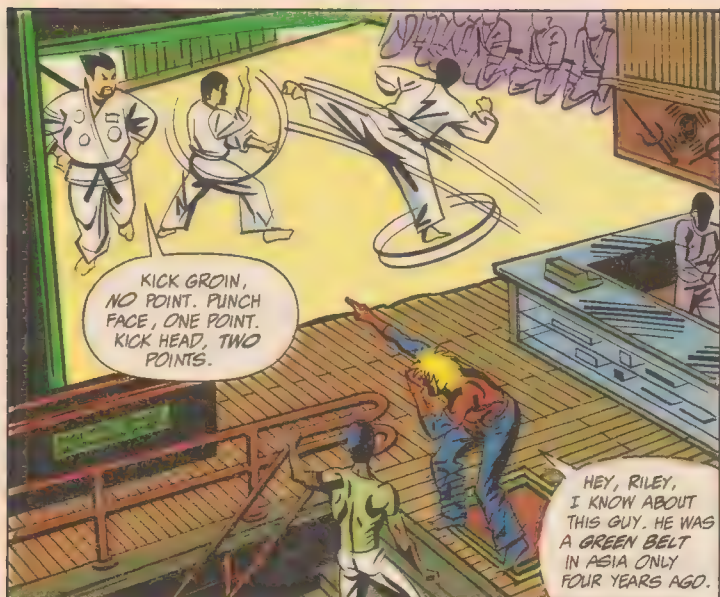


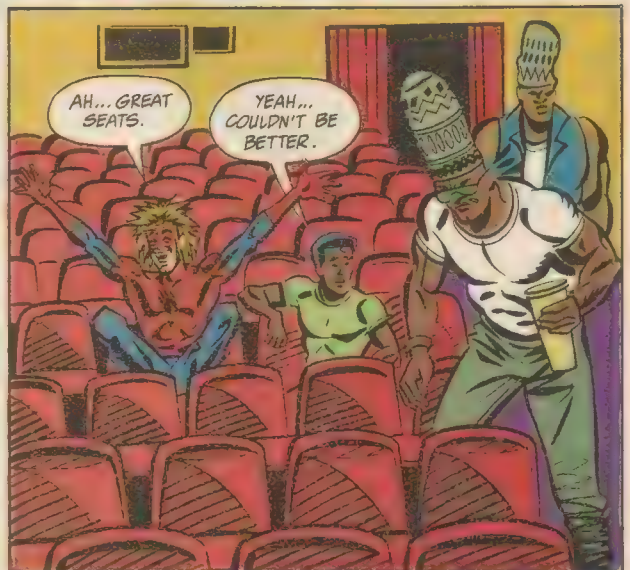
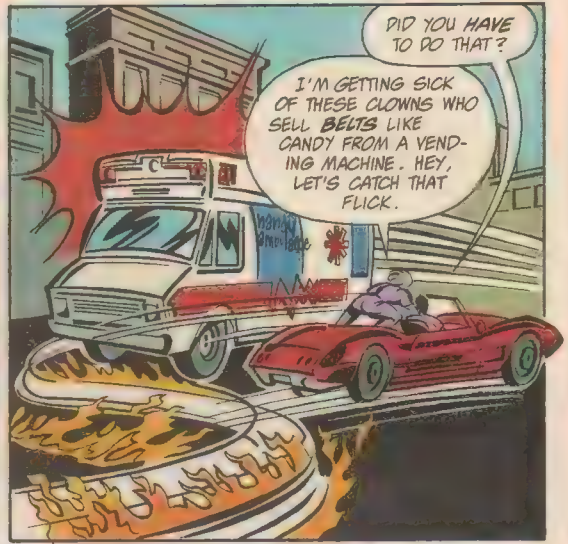
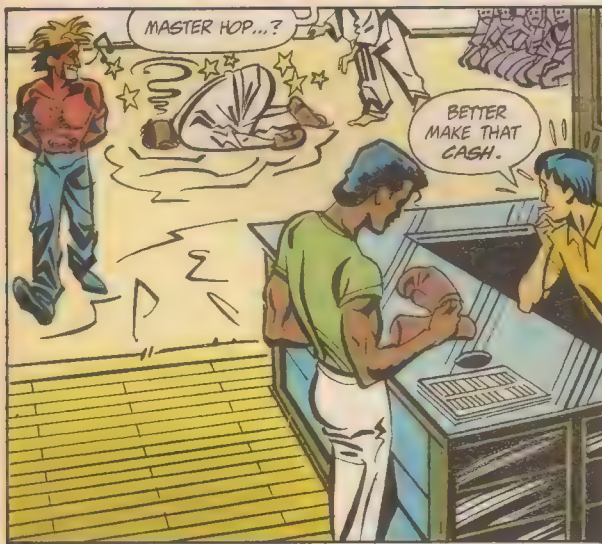
BADGER in **BAD DAY**

ROGER SALICK \ WRITER
BARRY CRAIN \ PENCILER
MITCH O'CONNELL \ INKER
RAY MURTAUGH \ COLORIST
LARRY DOYLE \ EDITOR





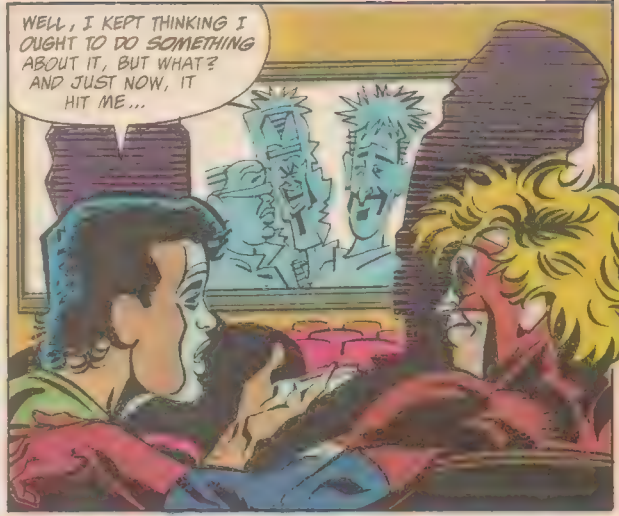






I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

Y'KNOW, BADGE,
I'VE BEEN WATCHING
YOU ALL DAY, AND
I'VE BEEN THINKING,
"THE BADGER'S
REALLY OUT OF
LINE..."

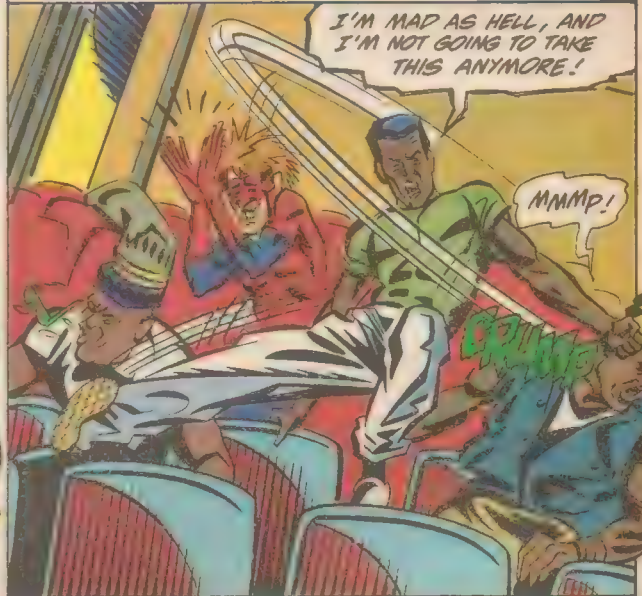


WELL, I KEPT THINKING I
OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT IT, BUT WHAT?
AND JUST NOW, IT
HIT ME...



I'M GOING
TO SHOW
YOU HOW IT'S
DONE!

ALL
RIGHT!



I'M MAD AS HELL, AND
I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE
THIS ANYMORE!

MMMP!



FROM NOW ON WHEN
YOU'RE IN THE THEATER,
SLOUCH A LITTLE!



YOU'RE A
CONTAGION, MR.
SYKES.

TRUE
ENOUGH, MR.
THORPE. PASS
THE POPCORN?

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RETAILER!

The following is a list of comics specialty stores whose representatives visited the First Comics booth at *Comic Book Expo '88*, held at the San Diego Convention and Performing Arts Center, August 2nd and 3rd.

These retailers all carry the full line of First Comics and First Graphic Novels, and can tell you about all the latest releases from First.

So when you're looking for that special gift this holiday season, locate the store nearest you, and tell them First Comics sent you!

ALABAMA

SINCERE COMICS
3738 Airport Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36608
205/342-2603

ARIZONA

ONE BOOK SHOP
120-A East University Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85281
602/967-3551, 602/968-0265

CALIFORNIA

ADVENTURE COMICS AND TOYS
625 Cannery Row, Suite 103
Monterey, CA 93940
408/375-3553

BARRETT'S COMICS & GAMES
525 Ross St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707/576-7754

BARRETT'S COMICS & GAMES
1593 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
Fairfax, CA 94930
415/459-2669

BEST OF TWO WORLDS
1391 Haight St.
San Francisco, CA 94117
415/863-6588

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135 No. Main St.
Manteca, CA 95336
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COMICO
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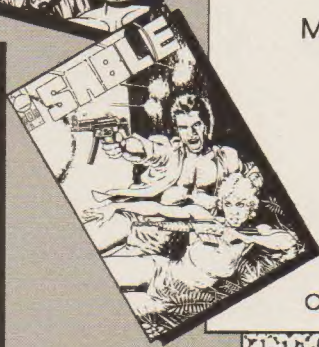
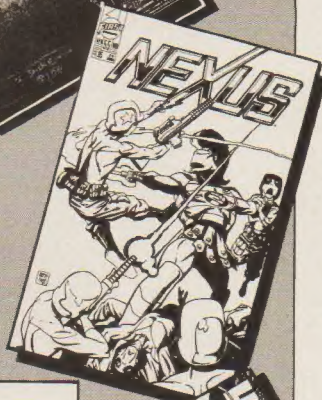
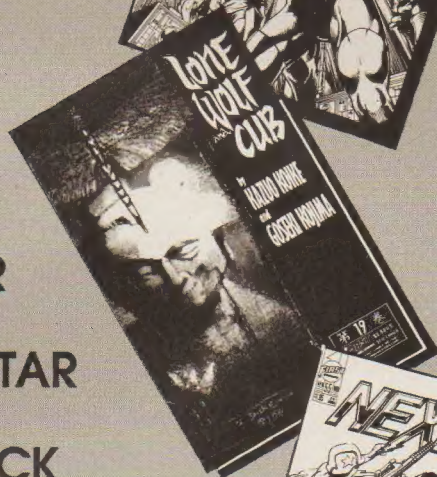
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